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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,969	09/11/2003	Wael R. Joseph	KCC 4979.1 (K-C 19,378B)	5031

321 7590 09/25/2006

SENNIGER POWERS
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE
16TH FLOOR
ST LOUIS, MO 63102

EXAMINER

AHMED, HASAN SYED

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/659,969	Applicant(s) JOSEPH, ET. AL.	
	Examiner Hasan S. Ahmed	Art Unit 1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u>.</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date : 10/31/03, 10/18/04, 11/12/04, 12/16/04.

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of applicants': (1) Status Inquiry letter filed on 21 September 2005; and (2) Information Disclosure Statements filed on 31 October 2003, 18 October 2004, 12 November 2004, and 16 December 2004.

Claim Objections

Claim 25 is objected to because of the following informality: "antiviral" is misspelled. Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

The use of the trademark Dow Corning[®] has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 24 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed,

had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the specification does not teach how to use glucosylceramide, *i.e.*, no amounts, weights, or percentages are given; no mention is made as to how the glucosylceramide is effectively incorporated into the tissue product claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-23, 25-56, and 58-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vega, *et. al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,153,209).

Vega, *et. al.* teach an absorbent product (see col. 1, line 7). The absorbent product disclosed is comprised of:

- the moisturizing and lubricating compositions of instant claims 1 and 32 (see col. 25, line 65 – col. 26, line 14);
- the emollient of instant claim 1 (see col. 15, line 26);
- the humectant of instant claims 1 and 32 (see col. 25, line 65 – col. 26, line 14);
- the immobilizing agent of instant claims 1 and 32 (see col. 26, line 6);
- the compatibilizing agent of instant claims 1 and 32 (see col. 26, line 5);
- the vegetable oil of instant claim 2 (see col. 15, lines 53-54)];
- the dimethicone of instant claims 3 and 35 (see col. 26, line 38);
- the glycerin of instant claims 5-7 and 37-39 (see col. 26, line 4);

- the polyethylene glycol of instant claims 9, 10, 41, and 42 (see col. 26, lines 6-7);
- the fatty alcohol, stearyl alcohol, of instant claims 9, 11, 41, and 43 (see col. 16, line 40);
- the butylene glycol of instant claims 12 and 44 (see col. 26, line 5);
- the dispersing agent of instant claim 13 (see col. 20, line 27);
- the polydimethylsiloxane of instant claim 14 (see col. 20, line 27);
- the skin barrier enhancing agent of instant claims 16 and 46 (see col. 17, line 66 – col. 18, line 10);
- the coconut oil of instant claims 17 and 47 (see col. 18, line 5);
- the tocopherol of instant claims 19, 20, 49, and 50 (see col. 19, lines 25-26);
- the cholesterol of instant claims 21, 22, 51, and 52 (see col. 18, line 13);
- the ceramide of instant claims 23 and 56 (see col. 17, lines 29);
- the surfactant of instant claims 25 and 53 (see col. 25, line 56); and
- the diapers of instant claims 31 and 61 (see col. 1, line 7).

Vega, *et. al.* explain that combining the disclosed ingredients into one absorbent product is beneficial because it provides, "...a breathable, protective barrier that keeps body exudates and other irritants from direct contact with the skin yet allows water vapor to pass through." See col. 1, lines 22-27.

Vega, *et. al.* do not explicitly teach use of the dispersing agent of instant claim 34 (Dow Corning® 5329). Rather, they teach use of the dispersing agent Dow Corning® 2503 (see col. 20, line 50). Because both Dow Corning® 5329 and Dow Corning® 2503 are functionalized dimethicones (see Dow Corning® product literature), one of ordinary

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skill in the art would have been motivated to add either Dow Corning® 5329 or Dow Corning® 2503 to the instant absorbent product. There is a reasonable expectation that the addition of either Dow Corning® 5329 or Dow Corning® 2503 to the instant absorbent product would provide an effective dispersing agent. As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add either Dow Corning® 5329 or Dow Corning® 2503 to the instant absorbent product.

Vega, *et. al.* do not explicitly teach all the percentages recited in instant claims 1, 4, 8, 15, 18, 21, 32, 36, 40, 45, 48, and 51 (or the ratio recited in instant claim 33), however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine suitable percentages through routine or manipulative experimentation to obtain the best possible results, as these are variable parameters attainable within the art.

Moreover, generally, differences in concentration will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such concentration is critical. “[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation.” *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456; 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955). Applicants have not demonstrated any unexpected or unusual results, which accrue from the instant percentage ranges.

The Vega, *et. al.* reference is silent with respect to the (1) phase temperatures of instant claims 1, 28-30, 32 and 58-60; (2) melting point of instant claims 26 and 54; (3) and penetration hardness of instant claims 27 and 55. Applicant’s article is the same as

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the prior art. It contains the same components in the same configuration. Properties are the same when the structure and composition are the same. Thus, burden shifts to applicant to show unexpected results, by declaration or otherwise. *In re Fitzgerald*, 205 USPQ 594. In the alternative, the claimed properties would have been present once the composition was employed in its intended use. *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 433.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine an emollient, a humectant, an immobilizing agent, and a compatibilizing agent into an absorbent product, as taught by Vega, *et. al.* One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to combine these ingredients into an absorbent product because they allow for the formation of a breathable, protective barrier that keeps body exudates and other irritants from direct contact with the skin, while allowing water vapor to pass through, as explained by Vega, *et. al.*

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to

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be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-61 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-59 of copending Application No. 10/659,862 ('862). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because '862 claims a tissue product comprising a moisturizing and lubricating composition comprising an emollient, a humectant, an immobilizing agent, and a compatibilizing agent. See claim 1.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.


Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hasan S. Ahmed whose telephone number is 571-272-4792. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Woodward can be reached on 571-272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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